

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An AV apparatus designed to control apparatuses and having a plurality of connection terminals to which the apparatuses can be selectively  
5 connected wherein identifiers are allocated to the connection terminals, respectively, each for designating a specific one of the apparatuses so that the apparatuses connected to the connection terminals are controlled in a priority order.
- 10 2. The AV apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each identifier is characters or a symbol that indicates a model number or type of the apparatus, and any apparatus designated by the identifier is controlled prior to any other apparatuses.
- 15 3. The AV apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses, which is designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, is selected prior  
20 to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which is not designated by the identifier.
- 25 4. The AV apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same connection terminal and designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses directly connected to the connection terminal is selected prior to the any other

of the at least two apparatuses, which is indirectly connected to the connection terminal.

5. The AV apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when an apparatus designated by a specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated, and an apparatus designated by the specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is not allocated or to a connection terminal to which an identifier different from the specific identifier is allocated, the apparatus connected to the connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated is selected prior to the apparatus connected to the connection terminal to which the specific identifier is not allocated or to the connection terminal to which an identifier different from the specific identifier is allocated.

6. The AV apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the connection terminals are serial bus terminals that comply with IEEE 1394 standards.

7. A method of controlling an AV apparatus having a plurality of connection terminals to which a plurality of apparatuses can be connected, thereby to control the apparatuses connected to the connection terminals, wherein identifiers are allocated to the connection terminals, respectively, each for

designating a specific one of the apparatuses so that the apparatuses connected to the connection terminals are controlled in a priority order.

5        8. The method according to claim 7, wherein each identifier is characters or a symbol that indicates a model number or type of the apparatus, and any apparatus designated by the identifier is controlled prior to any other apparatuses.

10       9. The method according to claim 8, wherein when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses, which is designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, is selected prior to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which  
15       is not designated by the identifier.

20       10. The method according to claim 8, wherein when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same connection terminal and designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses directly connected to the connection terminal is selected prior to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which is indirectly connected to the connection terminal.

25       11. The method according to claim 8, wherein when an apparatus designated by a specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated, and an apparatus

designated by the specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is not allocated or to a connection terminal to which an identifier different from the specific identifier is allocated, the apparatus connected to the connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated is selected prior to the apparatus connected to the connection terminal to which the specific identifier is not allocated or to the connection terminal to which an identifier different from the specific identifier is allocated.

12. The method according to any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein the connection terminals are serial bus terminals that comply with IEEE 1394 standards.

13. An AV-apparatus network system comprising a plurality of AV apparatuses and a control apparatus having a plurality of connection terminals to which the AV apparatus can be connected, wherein identifiers are allocated to the connection terminals, respectively, each for designating a specific one of the apparatuses so that the apparatuses connected to the connection terminals are controlled in a priority order.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein each identifier is characters or a symbol that indicates a model number or type of the apparatus, and any apparatus designated by the identifier is controlled prior to any other apparatuses.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses, which is designated by the identifier  
5 allocated to the connection terminal, is selected prior to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which is not designated by the identifier.

16. The system according to claim 14, when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same  
10 connection terminal and designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses directly connected to the connection terminal is selected prior to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which is indirectly  
15 connected to the connection terminal.

17. The system according to claim 14, wherein when an apparatus designated by a specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated, and an apparatus  
20 designated by the specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is not allocated or to a connection terminal to which an identifier different from the specific identifier is allocated, the apparatus connected to the connection  
25 terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated is selected prior to the apparatus connected to the connection terminal to which the specific identifier is

18. The system according to any one of claims 13  
5 to 17, wherein the connection terminals are serial bus  
terminals that comply with IEEE 1394 standards.